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GAFFALIONE SECURES FOURTH-CONSECUTIVE CHURCHILL DOWNS RIDING TITLE

Leading Owner, Trainer Race Up For Grabs on Closing Day

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, June 26, 2021) – With one day of racing remaining at the 38-day Spring Meet, jockey **Tyler Gaffalione**, who has quickly risen to one of the country's top riders, secured his fourth-straight title at Churchill Downs.

Through 37 days of racing, the 26-year-old Florida-native recorded 47 wins from 215 starters. He led second-place **Ricardo Santana Jr.** by 17 wins.

"We've been extremely fortunate to ride some top-class horses this meet," Gaffalione said. "It's been a wild meet overall but very successful. I'm very grateful to everyone who helped me get to this point."

Among Gaffalione's most notable wins at the meet were **Sconsin** in the \$150,000 Winning Colors (GIII), **Field Day** in the \$150,000 William Walker Stakes and **Bango** in the \$110,000 Kelly's Landing Overnight Stakes.

Following Saturday's closing day card, Gaffalione plans to take some time off in Florida before heading to Saratoga for their meet that begins July 15.

In the Spring Meet leading trainer race, three-time local champion **Brad Cox** held a 19-to-17 win advantage over record 24-time winner **Steve Asmussen**, seven-time leader **Mike Maker** and **Brendan Walsh**. Cox had entries in Races 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12. Asmussen is the only trainer that could pass Cox with horses entered in Races 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 12. Maker and Walsh can only tie Cox with two horses entered. Maker had entrants in Races 10 and 11 while Walsh had horses in Races 4 and 11.

In the leading owner race, **Kirk Wycoff's Three Diamonds Farm** secured at least a share of the title with six wins. He had horses entered in Races 10 and 11. He held a one-win lead over **Juddmonte**, who had one entrant in Race 10. **Calumet Farm**, who was two wins behind, had two horses entered in Races 1 and 7. **Godolphin** recorded three wins with one day remaining of the meet and had horses entered in Races 5, 11 and 12.

First post Saturday was 12:45 p.m. and there was a mandatory payout in all wagers. The Derby City 6 had a carryover of \$166,087 and a Super Hi 5 carryover of \$14,384.

Racing in Kentucky will switch to Ellis Park starting Sunday. Live racing beneath the Twin Spires returns Thursday, Sept. 16.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Saturday's second race, a six-furlong maiden special weight for 2-year-olds, has consistently produced future graded stakes performers. Last year's winner was **Whiskey Double**, who earlier this year finished second in the Bay Shore (GIII) and third in the Pat Day Mile (GII) for Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen**. The previous year's winner was the **Eddie Kenneally**-trained **Scabbard**, who'd go on to finish second in the Saratoga Special (GII) and Iroquois (GIII). Graded stakes winners who broke their maiden on closing week of the Spring Meet at the same conditions include 2005 Hopeful (GI) winner **First Samurai**; 2009 Forego (GI) winner **Pyro**; 2009 Iroquois (GIII) winner **Theskyhasnolimit**; 2010 Sanford (GII) winner **Maybesomaybenot**; 2014 Dominion Day (GIII) winner **Sky Captain**; and 2016 Sanford (GIII) winner **Bitumen**.

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